

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 3 are amended herein. These amendments are supported by the originally filed specification at, *inter alia*, page 6, lines 12-19, and page 32, line 28 – page 33, line 2. No new matter is presented by these amendments.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,996,396 to Snapp. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

According to presently amended claim 1, the RNM is adapted to allocate a local mobile phone number from a pool of local mobile phone numbers in the contracted roaming network for the phone...wherein *the allocated local mobile phone number is utilized as a calling number to make a call or as a calling number to answer a call in the contracted roaming network, and released when the subscriber leaves the contracted roaming network*. In other words, during the period of the subscriber's staying in the contracted roaming network, the subscriber can use the allocated local mobile phone number as a calling number to make a call, or as a called number to answer a call; and the allocated local mobile phone number is unchanged until the subscriber leaves the contracted roaming network. None of these claimed limitations can be learned or inferred from Snapp.

Snapp discloses an efficient call forwarding method when a subscriber roams into a network that operates on different standard, e.g. from an ANSI-41 network to a GSM network. As disclosed in col. 3, lines 23-30 of Snapp, the method is applied *when the customer's wireless telephone is currently active and the wireless telephone either is not answered or is busy*. In such circumstances - i.e. when the wireless telephone either is not answered or is busy - the call is transferred to the temporary transfer-to number which is homed on redirection MSC (Figure 3B, steps 322 and 326). The presently claimed invention, on the other hand, is implemented whenever the subscriber is within the roaming network.

Applicant further notes that the *temporary transfer-to number* of Snapp is entirely different from the *allocated local mobile phone number* recited in claim 1. As disclosed by Snapp at col.4, lines 12-25, the temporary transfer-to telephone number is different from the subscriber telephone number and the call forwarding number associated with the subscriber unit. It is rather a call forwarding number that is used in an intermediate and temporary manner between the subscriber telephone number and the call forwarding number. It is important to note that prior to activation and registration, a roaming subscriber unit need not be uniquely identified or associated with a temporary transfer-to telephone number. At col.7, lines 12-16, Snapp clearly discloses that *once the subscriber unit becomes inactive in the GSM network (e.g., powers off), the temporary transfer-to number associated therewith is then "unmarked" and is available for similar use by the same or another subscriber unit.*

It is therefore beyond clear that the temporary transfer-to telephone number of Snapp can be released and re-utilized by other subscribers *once the phone associated with the temporary transfer-to telephone number powers off*. In other words, the temporary transfer-to telephone number of Snapp is an intermediate and temporary number just for one call. Because this temporary transfer-to telephone number is assigned dynamically to the roaming subscriber unit (col.4, lines 26-27 of Snapp), the temporary transfer-to telephone number assigned to the roaming subscriber unit can be *changed for each successive call*. In the presently claimed invention, on the other hand, the allocated local mobile phone number *is unchanged until the subscriber leaves the roaming network* and thus all calls answered or made by the subscriber while in the roaming network use the same allocated local mobile phone number. Furthermore, the allocated local mobile phone number of the invention is used both as a calling number for placing a call or as a called number for answering a call, whereas the temporary transfer-to telephone number of Snapp is just an intermediate and temporary number between the subscriber telephone number and the call forwarding number (as described above), and it cannot be used either as a calling number to place a call nor as called number to answer a call.

Applicant further notes that at col.5, lines 51-54, Snapp teaches that the temporary transfer-to telephone number *is populated into both the busy field ("CFB" field) and the no answer field ("CFNA" field) of an INSERT_SUBSCRIBER_DATA message received at GSM*

serving MSC, whereas in the present application the allocated local mobile phone number (as a calling number) is populated into the MSISDN field.

Furthermore, Snapp teaches at col. 3, lines 58-61, that if the phone does not answer the call or is busy, the GSM serving MSC uses the temporary transfer-to telephone number to forward the call to the redirection MSC. The anchor MSC redirects the received call request to a forwarding telephone number previously provided by the ANSI-41 customer. This forwarding telephone number may be the telephone number used to access a voice mail system for the ANSI-41 customer, and *once the call request is forwarded to the ANSI-41 customer's voice mail system, the calling party may leave an audile message for the ANSI-41 customer*. This teaches us that the method of Snapp eliminates the need for international long distance telephone calls by means of forwarding a call request to an ANSI-41 customer's voice mail system, thus rendering cost savings to the subscriber (see, e.g., col.4, lines 35-39 of Snapp). This is also different from the present invention wherein cost savings are achieved by *allocating a local number* to the subscriber roaming in the contracted roaming network for making or answering a call.

In view of the preceding, Applicant respectfully submits that presently amended claim 1 is in fact novel and non-obvious over the art on record and requests the Examiner to kindly reconsider and pass this claim to issue.

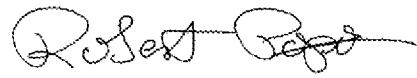
Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 2-19 are also allowable at least in view of their dependency on claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urges the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,



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